

REMARKS

Claims 17-46 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 17-21, 24-30 and 33-46 were rejected and claims 22, 23, 31 and 32 were objected to. With this Amendment, claims 22, 23, 31, and 32 were amended, and claims 17-21, 24-30, and 33-46 were cancelled. Accordingly, claims 22, 23, 31, and 32 are at issue.

I. Objection To Specification

The Abstract of the Invention has been amended to remove the informalities.

II. Objection To Claims

The Examiner objected to claims 22, 23, 31 and 32 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 22 and 31 to be in independent form. Claims 23 and 32 depend from claims 22 and 31, respectively, and have been amended for clarity. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 22, 23, 31, and 32 are allowable.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims

Claims 17-21, 24-30 and 33-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Angles et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,811). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicants have cancelled claims 17-21, 24-30, and 33-46, without prejudice, in order to allow claims 22, 23, 31, and 32 to proceed to issuance. Applicants expressly reserve the right to reintroduce these claims and other claims in a continuation or later-filed application.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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